

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/942,785

Examiner

Zeev Kitov

Applicant(s)

KER ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/22/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Examiner acknowledges a submission of the amendment and arguments filed on November 22, 2004. Claim 23 is deleted; Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Amendment and arguments have overcome an objection and rejections under 102 (b) and 103(a).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

An amended independent Claim 1 discloses an ESD clamp device, coupled to a pad and a substrate having a first conductivity type, the ESD clamp device being closed under normal power operation; and a functional component, formed on the substrate and coupled to the pad, the functional component having a first well of the first conductivity type an active element disposed in the first well and an isolating region of a second conductivity type, the second conductivity type being the reversed polarity of the first conductivity type, and the isolating region isolating the first well from the substrate; the functional component transmitting signals between the IC and an external linkage under normal power operation.

The closest reference fro the claim is Puar (US 5,287,241), which discloses many elements of the Claim including an ESD clamp device coupled to a pad and a substrate having a first conductivity type, the ESD clamp device being closed under normal power operation; and a functional component formed on the substrate and coupled to the pad, the functional component having a first well of the first conductivity type and an isolating region of a second conductivity type, the second conductivity type

Art Unit: 2836

being the reversed polarity of the first conductivity type, and the isolating region isolating the first well from the substrate; the functional component transmitting signals between the IC and an external linkage under normal power operation. However, it does not disclose an active functional element disposed in the first well. The wells associated with the active component of the reference are two p-type wells forming the source and the drain of the MOS transistor but there is no single well, in which a whole functional element is disposed.

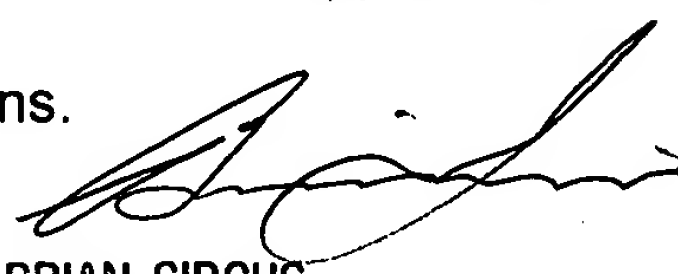
Other independent Claims 9 and 15 essentially recite the same limitation in slightly rephrased form.

Allowability resides, at least in part, in the above-described limitations, which has not been disclosed in the Prior Art in a search.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zeev Kitov whose telephone number is (571) 272-2052. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 – 4:30. If attempts to reach examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272 – 2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceedings is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for all communications.

Z.K.
12/15/2004



BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800